

**Treatment Outcomes for Youth Admitted to Residential Chemical
Dependency Treatment Under the Provisions of the “Becca” Bill**

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CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH AT TREATMENT ADMISSION

Demographic Characteristics

- Youths' ages ranged from 10 to 18 with an average of 15.8 years.
- 81% of the sample were Caucasian, 9% Native American, 4% African American, 3% Hispanic, 1% Asian, and 2% 'other'.
- 82% of the sample received at least some public funding for treatment.

History of Running From Home

- In the year prior to treatment, 90% of "Becca" youth and 70% of "non-Becca" youth had run from home.
- 33% of youth had spent at least one night on the streets or in a shelter during the 3-months prior to treatment.

Drug Use Prior to Treatment

- Marijuana was the primary drug of choice for 68% of the youth. Alcohol was the primary drug of choice for 19% of the youth.
- The average age of first drug use was age 10 across all drugs including alcohol and tobacco, and age 12 excluding tobacco.

School Enrollment, Suspensions, and Expulsions

- 48% of "Becca" youth were not enrolled in school compared to 25% of "non-Becca" youth.
- 67% of youth had been suspended from school, and 28% had been expelled from school.

History of Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Use

- 68% of "Becca" youth compared to 31% of "non-Becca" youth had received some type of DCFS services.

Delinquent Behavior/Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System

- Nearly 80% of youth reported selling drugs.
- Damaging property and theft were each reported by about 75% of youth.
- Physical assault and breaking and entering were each reported by over half of the youth.
- 74% of youth had been arrested at some time in their life, with about one-quarter arrested four or more times.
- Over half (55%) had been in juvenile detention.

Teenage Pregnancy

- 39% of females had been pregnant at least once in their life.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT OUTCOMES

Alcohol and Other Drug Use Decreased Substantially Following Chemical Dependency Treatment

- Approximately 40% of the youth remained abstinent three months after treatment.
- For all primary drugs of choice, use decreased. (30-day drug use prevalence post-treatment was substantially less than use during the 30 days prior to treatment)
 - The proportion using alcohol declined from 77% to 36%.
 - The proportion using marijuana declined from 87% to 41%.
 - Among those who continued to use alcohol or marijuana, 60% decreased their frequency of use.

Running From Home Decreased Substantially Following Chemical Dependency Treatment

- In the year prior to treatment, 90% of Becca youth compared to 70% of “non-Becca” youth had run from home whereas post-treatment only 21% of youth from both groups had run from home.
- There was more than a 50% decrease in the proportion of youth who had spent at least one night on the streets or in a shelter following treatment. (33% vs. 14%).

Association with Drug Using Peers Decreased Substantially Following Chemical Dependency Treatment

- Prior to treatment 74% of youth reported that most or all of their friends got drunk regularly compared to 32% following chemical dependency treatment. There were similar decreases in the proportion of friends using marijuana and ‘more than one street drug’.

School Enrollment Increased Following Chemical Dependency Treatment

- Prior to treatment, a significantly lower proportion of “Becca” youth were enrolled in school compared to “Non-Becca” youth (53% versus 75%). Following treatment, there were no differences in school enrollment due to an increase in “Becca” youths’ enrollment in school from 53% to 74%.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT OUTCOMES, continued

School Suspensions and Expulsions Decreased Significantly Following Chemical Dependency Treatment

- In the year prior to treatment about 68% of both groups reported school suspensions. Post-treatment, a third of “Becca” youth compared to 18% of “non-Becca” youth reported being suspended from school.
- In the year prior to treatment, 30% of youth had been expelled from school at least once, whereas post-treatment, only 6% had been expelled from school.

Delinquent Behavior/Involvement with the Juvenile Justice Systems Decreased Substantially During the Three Months Following Chemical Dependency Treatment

- The proportion of youth who sold drugs dropped from 79% to 28% .
- The proportion of youth reported breaking and entering dropped from 53% to 14%
- The proportion of youth arrested dropped from 72% to 29%

Treatment Completion and Discharge from Treatment

- 57% of youth completed chemical dependency treatment.
- 30% left treatment early either because of a rule violation or because they withdrew against the advice of staff or ran away.
- However, even treatment non-completers received an average of 21.5 days of treatment.

Youths’ Satisfaction with Chemical Dependency Treatment

- 67% of youth reported that overall they were satisfied with the chemical dependency treatment they received.

PARENTS' VIEWS

Parents' Views Of The "Becca" Bill And Use Of Its Provisions

- Nearly half of the parents had heard of the "Becca" Bill from a chemical dependency treatment provider, 30% heard of the "Becca" Bill from DCFS, and 32% reported that they had heard of it from the news/media.
- 62% of parents felt that the "Becca" Bill was either somewhat or very successful in meeting its mission of getting youth into treatment when needed.

Parents' Views Of Adolescent Chemical Dependency Treatment

- Overall, more than three-quarters of parents had "no problems" identifying, reaching, and obtaining an assessment for treatment admission, and most found the access process easy overall.
- 63% of parents reported that it took them a month or more to get their child an assessment for residential chemical dependency treatment.
- After the assessment, 57% of youth were put on a waiting list for treatment.
- Over a third (38%) of the parents reported that it took 3 months or more for their child to enter treatment.
- Parents of "Becca" youth were less likely than parents of "non-Becca" youth to report that their child was placed on a waiting list for treatment (46% versus 61%).
- Parents of privately funded youth were less likely than parents of publicly funded youth to report that their child was put on a waiting list for chemical dependency treatment (36% versus 63%).
- Less than a quarter of the parents (24%) were aware that they could sign their child into treatment without the youth's consent.
- Parent respondents were quite satisfied with residential treatment overall, with 76% reporting that they were satisfied.

CONCLUSIONS

- Overall “Becca” and “non-Becca” youth were very similar. All of the youth, that were served by residential treatment facilities, whether “Becca” youth or not, faced many serious problems in addition to their harmful use of alcohol and other drugs. For both groups of youth, treatment resulted in a decrease in harmful behaviors.
- As evidenced by the extended period of time youth spend waiting for a treatment assessment and then spend on a waiting list, the number of treatment beds currently available are not sufficient to serve the need throughout the state.